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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An optical instrument comprising:

- at least one binocular viewing port defining at least one binocular beam path which has two channels;
- an imaging module,
- a display module,
- a plurality of beam splitters for reflecting a portion of the beam path out onto the imaging module toward the viewing port, and for reflecting into one channel data or images that have been made available on the display module, wherein the imaging module and the display module are arranged in stationary fashion with respect to the optical instrument; and
- at least one optical switcher provided for the imaging module and the display module that optically connects the respective module to the beam splitter in the one or the other channel.

2. The optical instrument as defined in Claim 1, wherein the optical switchers are rotatable prisms.

3. The optical instrument as defined in Claim 1, wherein the optical switchers are slidable prisms.

4. The optical instrument as defined in Claim 2, wherein the prisms are rhomboid prisms.

5. The optical instrument as defined in Claim 3,
wherein the prisms are rhomboid prisms.
- 5 6. The optical instrument as defined in Claim 1,
wherein the imaging module and the display module
are optically connected to different channels of the
binocular beam path.
- 10 7. The optical instrument as defined in Claim 6,
wherein the optical switchers of the imaging module
and of the display module are coupled to one another
in such a way that the imaging module and the
display module cannot be connected simultaneously to
the same channel.
- 15 8. The optical instrument as defined in Claim 7,
wherein the optical switchers of the imaging module
and of the display module, configured as prisms, are
arranged on the same shaft.
- 20 9. The optical instrument as defined in Claim 1,
wherein the beam splitters are beam splitter prisms
or beam splitter cubes.
- 25 10. The optical instrument as defined in Claim 1,
wherein the optical instrument is a microscope
having a binocular viewing port.
- 30 11. The optical instrument as defined in Claim 1,
wherein the optical instrument is a stereo
microscope having a binocular viewing port.

12. The instrument or device as defined in Claim 1, wherein at least two optical switchers, which have different functions, are provided for the imaging module and the display module.